



ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC PARISH
 39-49 McLAREN ROAD, NERANG
 POSTAL: PO Box 196 NERANG, QLD 4211
 PHONE: (07) 5596 2632 FAX: (07) 5596 3669
 WEBSITE: www.stbrigidsparishnerang.org.au

OFFICE HOURS: During January only: Tuesday & Friday 9.00 am—1.30pm
 Please note: the Office will be closed between Christmas & New Years.

Third Sunday of Advent Yr A – 11 December 2022

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10 *A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

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| <p>1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
 who is just to those who are oppressed.
 It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
 the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)</p> <p>2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
 who raises up those who are bowed down,
 the Lord, who protects the stranger
 and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)</p> | <p>3. It is the Lord who loves the just
 but thwarts the path of the wicked.
 The Lord will reign for ever,
 Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)</p> |
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Second Reading Jas 5:7-10 *A reading from the letter of St James*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
 he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
 Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 11:2-11 *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

Parish Administrator: Fr Albert Wasniowski OSPPE
Ph: 0402 001266 / wasniowskia@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Secretary: Lenette Evans
Administration Assistant: Gurli Pennings

Fr Jeremy Santoso OSPPE
Ph: 0418877906 / santosoj@bne.catholic.net.au
Office Email: nerang@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish WHS & Safeguarding Officer: Tim Horvat

REFLECTION

Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.

John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost.

Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time.

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**Christmas at St Brigid's
 Morning Tea & Cake Stall**

Sunday, 11th Dec after 8.30am Mass there will be a Parish Morning Tea & Cake Stall.
 Please help support this Parish Fund-raiser.

CHURCHES St Brigid's Church 39-49 McLaren Rd Nerang Q 4211 St John's Church Windabout Rd Beechmont Q 4211	MASS AND PRAYER TIMES AT ST BRIGID'S CHURCH Week Day Mass		
	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday Wednesday Saturday Morning	7.00 am 6.00 pm 9.00 am	
SCHOOL St Brigid's Primary McLaren Road Nerang Q 4211 Phone: 5596 4188 WEB PAGE: www.sb.qld.edu.au MATTHEW VINE Principal	Sunday Mass Saturday Vigil Sunday		6.00 pm 8.30 am sometimes live streamed
	St John's Windabout Road, Beechmont Christmas Day 8.30am and 1st Sunday of each month - 9.00am 1st January 2023 Next Mass at St John's Rosary Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 6.30 am Saturday at 8.30am. Sunday 8.00am Divine Mercy Prayer Thursday 7.30 am Adoration in Church Wednesday 5.30pm followed by 6.00pm Mass Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Saturday 9.30 am Reconciliation: St Brigid's Church Saturdays 8:15am & 5:15 pm and Wednesday 5:15 pm Mass at Earle Haven - 13th January 2023 9:15am		

We remember all those who have gone before us to rest in the loving embrace of Jesus
We pray for the recently deceased : Vera Horvat, Christopher Alroy
We pray for the departed whose anniversaries occur at this time: Clive Scrivens, Shirley Ryan, Bruce Hudson
We also remember their families—may they be comforted in their loss by this Community of Faith.
We pray for those who are sick or in hospital: John Carney,
Our prayers are also offered for those who are elderly and in Nursing Homes.



THE SHRINE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
MARIAN VALLEY MASS TIMES

Weekday Mass is at 9.00 am Monday to Friday
 Saturday Mass time is 11.00am Sunday Mass times 11.00am and 4.00pm



HOSPITAL CALLS
 Robina Hospital - Burleigh Heads Parish 5576 6466
 Pindara Hospital - Surfers Paradise Parish 5572 5433
 John Flynn Hosp -Coolangatta-Tugun Parish 5598 2165
 University & Gold Coast PrivHosp-Southport Parish 5510 2222

BAPTISM PRAYERS
 We pray for Lexie Mira Breadmore who is being baptised this weekend. We pray she will grow in grace and wisdom and abound with the love of God all through life. We pray for her family and Godparents.

Tap & Go
 You will notice a new Tap & Go machine at the church entrance. This is a very handy method of giving to St. Brigid's. The machine has been pre-set so that One tap equals \$10, two taps equals \$20 and multiples thereof. This takes care of the problem of being caught without cash and is a great benefit to our parish. **Please use before or after Mass, not during.**

Come and pray the Nine days pre-Christmas dawn masses from 16th to 24th December

The 9-day masses is a tradition celebrated in the Phillipines, known as "Simbang Gabi", which means "Mass of the Rooster". The tradition traces its roots back to Mexico in 1587, when Fr. Diego de Soria, from the convent of San Augustin Acolman, petitioned the Pope for permission to hold Christmastide Masses outdoors because the church could not accommodate the multitude that attended the dawn services.

It was in the 16th century when Pope Sixtus V decreed that these pre-dawn Masses be also held in the Phillipines starting every 16th December, under the conditions that the intentions would be offered for Holy Catholic Church, for the propagation of the faith and preservation of the newly baptised. The decree was in keeping with the nine-day traditional festivals of Filipinos in celebrating auspicious occasions like harvest times. It was also meant to give farmers a chance to hear Mass before setting out for the fields.

All are invited to participate in these masses from 5am each day from the 16th to 24th December.

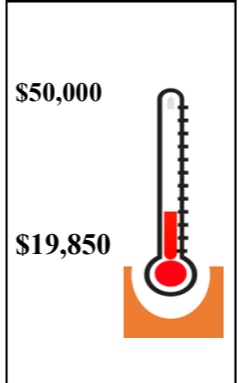
We here at St Brigid's Catholic Parish Nerang as part of the Archdiocese of Brisbane MUST ABIDE BY AND ADHERE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRIVACY ACT & THE AUSTRALIAN PRIVACY PRINCIPLES. The Privacy Act impacts upon us all today and if you wish to peruse the Compliance Requirements and the Privacy Act, please go to the Archdiocesan Website www.bne.catholic.net.au. The Policy is on our website

December 11, 2022
3rd Sunday of Advent
 "You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." JAMES 5:8
 Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own. <https://www.archstl.org/about-stewardship/bulletin-inserts/weekly-bible-reflections>

We urgently need volunteers to vacuum the church on a regular basis. If a few people are able to give of their time, it makes the job easier. Please contact the office.

BUY A BRICK CAMPAIGN
Week 14 9 MORE BRICKS.

14 Weeks ago we commenced this project and we set a goal to reach \$50,000 before Christmas. It might seem impossible so close to Christmas but we continue to hope that this will happen. This is the season for Hope. Hope is always in the Lord who makes all things possible. Can you be part of making this a reality? We place our hope in our prayer at this time. We also place before the Lord all those who have been able to help with their generosity to date. Information on this campaign is in a brochure at the back of the church.
Bank Transfer - BSB 064-786 Account 100025317 Ref: Bricks-Your name
 If you require a receipt please email the parish.
 Every blessing to you and your family this Christmas. The fundraising team.



STOPline
If you think it's wrong...report it. STOPline is an independent service that receives information about suspected abuse, harm and other serious misconduct by workers (including priests, religious, employees, educators, practitioners, support workers and volunteers). Phone 1300 304 550 Email: AOB@stopline.com.au
 Online Report: www.bneatholic.stoplinereport.com
 Information can be provided anonymously..

ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE
 Safeguarding Commitment The Archdiocese has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.